

Newsletter 24

The twenty fourth meeting of the ILBs' was held on 19 February 2019 at the Mee's as half term at the Woodland Centre would have been too busy and noisy.

There were 11 attendees plus Kris, her granddaughter who served tea and cakes and Sue Stacey's young granddaughter who was very well behaved. Three ladies went for a walk.

Indoor Meeting 06/02/2019 thanks to Angela Baldock: -

This month's indoor meeting was a talk about The Gambia by Colin Kirtland. Colin thanked the branch for inviting him back and apologised for the quality of his photos as they were not as good as he would like, due to converting slides to digital.

He went on to explain that his photos were varied as he enjoyed shooting not just birds, but the people and where they live too. He showed several photos of Gambians carrying out their everyday lives, such as selling fruit at the side of the roads or collecting palm wine from palm trees using plastic bottles.

Colin explained that there were some very nice hotels around the coastal areas, with gardens where birdlife was plentiful, so it was an easy place to birdwatch without venturing too far. There was also good birdwatching on a golf course within an easy walk from the hotel.

The photos were a good representation of the many vibrant bird families that can be found in The Gambia, such as bee-eaters, robin chats, sunbirds (the hummingbird equivalents of Africa), and other special birds such as the very brightly coloured gonolek, hornbills and African roller.

Unfortunately, the RSPB laptop developed a fault just before coffee break, which turned out to be terminal, so after an early tea/coffee break, and Colin's enthusiastic answering of questions, we left early.

Local Sightings: - *Thanks to Anne Sanford*

Wallasea – Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Buzzard, Merlin, Kestrel, Short Eared Owl, Avocet, Reed Bunting.

Eastwood Brook - (Near St Laurence Church) - Little Owl, Kingfisher. Gunners Park – Shoveler, Little Grebe.

Fobbing/Coryton – Song Thrush, Cettis Warbler, Rock Pipit. Abberton - Black Necked Grebe, Long Tailed Duck, Smew.

Paglesham – 3 Great White Egret flew past

Katherine - off Tenerife – Laughing Dove, Grey Wagtail, Great White Egret, Common Sandpiper, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Berthelose Pipit, Whimbrel, Atlantic Canaries in fig tree feasting on figs

Rita – Abberton – Green Winged Teal, Scaup. Linford Arboretum – Hawfinches, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Brambling

Margaret – Southchurch park – Teal, Cormorant. Lynn – Cherry Orchard Park – Yellowhammer.

Power Museum Langford nr Maldon – Grey Wagtail.

Field Trips – 10/02/2019 Chigborough Lakes *Thanks to Anne Sanford*

There were nine members including 1 ILB. The weather was cloudy and damp and very windy at Heybridge Basin. 54 Species were seen in total.

20/2/2019 West Canvey Marsh – 18 people attended including one ILB where 44 species were seen including Water Pipit

Forthcoming Events: -

The next indoor meeting will be Wednesday 6 March 2019 at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Birds of Hel (N Poland) by Jonathan Forgham.

The next field trip Tuesday 5th March at South Fambridge. Meet at 10:00am

Or Sunday 24 March EWT Hanningfield Reservoir meet at 10:00am

Next Coach Trip – Sunday 12 May – Minsmere Phone Cath 01702 293357 to book a place, then send a cheque to Cath or pay at the March Indoor Mtg to secure seat.

The next Essex Wildlife Trust meeting will be Thursday 28th March 2019 – Emma Stobart, 'Operation Turtle Dove' at the Belfairs Woodland Centre 7:45pm.

Any lady requiring transport to attend any event please contact Kris Mee.

The **next ILB meeting** is scheduled for **19 March 2019** at the Belfairs Woodland Centre. Meet at 10:00am for a walk or 10:30am for coffee and a chat.

Monty (Anthony) Cooper has, sadly, passed away. His funeral will be held at Southend Crematorium, South Chapel on 11th March at 15.40. Monty, among other things, volunteered for years for Essex Wildlife Trust on 2 Tree Island and was a regular at RSPB LG. events and in Belfairs Woods, where he could be seen latterly on his motorised buggy. He had extensive wild life knowledge and will be greatly missed.

Hilary Le Marie has had a fall and broken her hip. She is still in hospital following a hip replacement.

Cath Williams has had a deep back operation and will be having the wound dressed daily for the foreseeable future.

This newsletter will be available on the local group website at: <http://www.southendrspb.co.uk> . Click on ILBs on the Menu Bar.

If you no longer wish to hear from the RSPB South East Essex Local Group, please contact **Kris Mee 01702 525152 krismee28@googlemail.com** confirming your name and address and stating that you wish to unsubscribe from the RSPB South East Essex Local Group's communications.